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Sec. 145.301. (A) A member may purchase service credit that shall be considered as the equivalent of Ohio service for each year of service incurred by reason of having been on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, as defined in section 145.30 of the Revised Code. The credit may be purchased at any time. The number of years purchased shall not exceed five. The member may choose to purchase only part of such credit in any one payment, subject to board rules.

(B) For the purposes of this division, "prisoner of war" means any regularly appointed, enrolled, enlisted, or inducted member of the armed forces of the United States who was captured, separated, and incarcerated by an enemy of the United States.

A member may purchase service credit that shall be considered as the equivalent of Ohio service for each year of service such member was a prisoner of war. The number of years purchased under this division shall not exceed five. Service credit may be purchased under this division for the same years of service used to purchase service credit under division (A) of this section. The member may choose to purchase only part of such credit in any one payment, subject to board rules.

(C) The total number of years purchased under this section shall not exceed the member's total accumulated number of years of Ohio service.

(D) For each year of service purchased under division (A) or (B) of this section, the member shall pay to the public employees retirement system for credit to his accumulated account an amount determined by the member rate of contribution in effect at the time the military service began, multiplied by his earnable salary for full-time employment during the first year of service in Ohio following termination of military service. If, however, a limit on maximum salary or maximum contribution was in effect at the time the military service began, the limit shall be applied to the earnable salary received during the first year of service in Ohio to calculate the amount of payment. To this amount shall be added an amount equal to compound interest at a rate established by the public employees retirement board from the date active military service terminated to date of payment.

(E) A member is ineligible to purchase service credit under this section for any year of military service used in the calculation of any retirement benefit currently being paid to the member or payable in the future under any other retirement program except social security. At the time the credit is purchased, the member shall certify on a form furnished by the retirement board that he does and will conform to this requirement. ~~Any benefit paid under this section to which the member is not entitled shall be recovered by any recovery procedures available under this chapter.~~

(F) Credit purchased under this section may be combined pursuant to section 145.37 with credit for military service purchased under sections 3307.021 and 3309.021, except that not more than an aggregate total of five years of credit purchased under division (A) of this section, division (A) of section 3307.021, and division (A) of section 3309.021, and not more than an aggregate total of five years of credit purchased under division (B) of this section, division (B) of section 3307.021, and division (B) of section 3309.021 shall be used in determining retirement eligibility or calculating benefits under section 145.37 of the Revised Code.

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